

TK!

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CITY OF ALEKNAGIK

P.O. Box 33, MAIN STREET
ALEKNAGIK, ALASKA 99555-0033
PHONE: 907-842-5953 OR 842-2528
FAX: 907-842-2107
EMAIL: cityalek@nushtel.com

October 18, 2005

Dear Friends of Aleknagik:

This urgent letter requests your renewed support for the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge. The bridge remains the community's number one capital improvement priority. The Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) is asking for \$13 million in the FY07 Capital Budget from the Governor. The federal budget is tight, while there is a \$1 billion surplus in state revenue. Governor Murkowski will be making his budget decisions within the next couple of weeks.

Please contact Governor Murkowski with your support at:

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Governor, State of Alaska
Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Office: 907-465-3500
Fax: 907-465-3532

Thank you for your timely help on this much needed bridge.

Sincerely,



Berna Andrews
Mayor

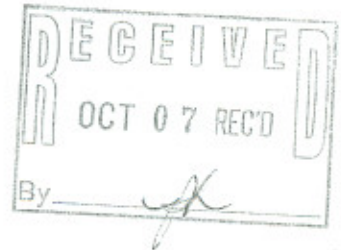
Enclosures: Bridge Brochure
Representative Carl Moses' Letter, dated 9/30/05
Joint Resolution 04:01 Aleknagik Wood River Bridge

Received 11/25/05
8W

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Carl E. Moses

House District 37



Ms. Berna Andrews, Mayor
City of Aleknagik
Box 33, Aleknagik, AK 99555

September 30, 2005

Mr. Gusty Chythlook, President
Aleknagik Traditional Council
Box 115, Aleknagik, AK 99555

Mr. Bobby Andrew, President
Aleknagik Natives, Ltd.
Box 1630, Aleknagik, AK 99555

RE: Wood River Bridge Project

Dear Mayor Andrews, President Chythlook, and President Andrew:

As you well know, the construction and completion of the Wood River Bridge remains one of my utmost priorities. Although we often work in silence waiting for some measure of accomplishment, eventually we do make our mark. I want to report to you today, some potentially significant progress toward the realization of our bridge.

In a detailed discussion with personnel at the highest levels of the state Department of Transportation, I have been told that the department will recommend to the governor, as his FY07 capital budget is assembled, the complete funding for the construction and completion of the Wood River Bridge. Their estimate is \$13 million, and they will ask for all of it in state General Funds. They are not confident that federal funds for this project, funds we have previously been pursuing, will come in a timely fashion, or consistently over the next several years, especially if the project is done in phases. There are issues of the federal deficit, and of course, new competition for funds from the storm-impacted Gulf Coast region of the southern United States.

SESSION

State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4451
Toll-Free: (800) 898-4451
Fax: (907) 465-3445

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutians
Bristol Bay
Pribilofs

INTERIM

716 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 269-0275
Toll-Free: (800) 898-4451
Fax: (907) 269-0274

This lack of confidence in predictable federal funding, coupled with the unanimous conclusion that this bridge is sorely needed for your community, have inspired DOT personnel to support this general fund recommendation to the governor.

To be clear, this will be a recommendation only from DOT to the governor, through his Office of Management and Budget. That office has a review process, and finally, the governor and his staff have a review process. I emphasize that this funding request should not be considered a sure thing, however, we have in my view, a golden opportunity to advance this project years ahead of its time. The state may have as much as \$1 billion in surplus revenues, we have sympathy within the Murkowski administration, and I am prepared to do whatever it takes within my power to bring this bridge to reality, as soon as possible.

The governor's capital budget will likely be finished in the next four weeks. I am asking you to write to the governor, and I am asking you to get as many community and area residents, business entities, Native interests, and non-profits to write the governor, in support of funding this project in its entirety, this year, with \$13 million in state General Fund money. I would not hesitate to remind the governor about the unfortunate deaths which have occurred over the years. We have advantages here, so let's use them. The greater outpouring we have over the next four weeks, the more we will reinforce the leadership at the Department of Transportation with their effort, and the easier it will be for me to push this over the top, if it is at all possible, during the next legislative session.

Contact the governor at: The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Governor, State of Alaska
Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Office – (907) 465-3500
Fax – (907) 465-3532

My legislative staff member who is assigned to this project is Tim Benintendi, reachable in my Anchorage office at (800) 898-4451, or at tim_benintendi@legis.state.ak.us. Truly working together, we may just succeed.

Sincerely,



Representative Carl E. Moses
House District 37

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION 04:01**

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF ALEKNAGIK, ALEKNAGIK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALEKNAGIK NATIVES LIMITED AMENDING RESOLUTION 03:04 REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS, STATE LEGISLATURE, AND ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES FOR THE ALEKNAGIK WOOD RIVER BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, Aleknagik Natives Limited, Aleknagik Traditional Council and the City of Aleknagik executed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 29, 2000 to recognize areas of mutual concern and support, and to establish a framework for cooperative relations and communication for the benefit of the community of Aleknagik as a whole and it is the desire of the three entities to cooperate concerning legal and political matters inherent in a private corporation to government to government relationship; and,

WHEREAS, the community of Aleknagik is divided by a lake and river system and the community needs a bridge for transportation between the North and South Shores; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge would allow for consolidation of state and federal services that are now duplicated on each side of the lake, including the health clinics, fire department, maintenance shops, maintenance equipment and landfills; and,

WHEREAS, the lake is a natural barrier to cohesiveness, because the North Shore is more isolated and receives more of the local infrastructure, a bridge would eliminate the feeling of disenfranchisement by other parts of the community; and,

WHEREAS, there have been 12 deaths attributed to lake crossings in poor weather conditions with the two most recent deaths occurring on December 31, 2002 when three people attempted to cross by canoe in ice and weather conditions that prohibited snow-machine and outboard travel; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge would alleviate safety issues regarding transporting children across the lake in poor weather for school, it would reduce the high insurance costs involved, and reduce the number of school absences due to bad weather; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge would provide a safe winter crossing point on the Wood River for travelers from surrounding villages to access hunting grounds and recreational areas on either side of the lake and river system; and,

WHEREAS, there is an interconnecting road between the Aleknagik South Shore and the regional hub of Dillingham, Alaska and a bridge would allow for more interaction,

transportation services, economic opportunities, and consolidation of duplicated services between the communities of Dillingham and Aleknagik; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge would reduce the trespass issues and friction between property owners and travelers requiring access to the beaches to cross the lake; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge could provide a winter trails link and other future alternative access to the Wood-Tikchik State Park reducing congestion and conflict at the current access points; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge is an integral part of the *Dillingham/Bristol Bay Corridor* between Dillingham and Levelock as seen in the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, "Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan (February 2002)," which would evidentially link to the *Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay Corridor*, which would provide access to/from the Kenai Peninsula and the Interstate road system for the Dillingham/Bristol Bay Area; and,

WHEREAS, a bridge is a top priority for the community of Aleknagik and is mentioned in the Aleknagik 20-Year Comprehensive Strategic Development Plan under infrastructure needed and the desired construction date for the community is 2006/2007; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) has changed the funding for the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge to an *Earmark* that means that the Alaska DOT will not fund the project, instead it requires funds be earmarked by the state Legislature or U.S. Congress to fund the project; and,

WHEREAS, funds have been spent on the bridge project with planning, environmental assessment, local site selection, and site survey completed; and,

WHEREAS, ADOT held a public meeting in Aleknagik on January 12, 2004 regarding the choices in the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge Environmental Assessment and the community chose Site B, Clear Span, Alignment 1, and Option A.

WHEREAS, the bridge project phases and estimated costs that remain to be funded are *Design* at \$1 million, *Right-of-Way* at \$800,000, *Access Roads* at \$3 million, and *Construction* at 5.5 million dollars for a total of \$12.8 million required to complete the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the community of Aleknagik requests funding for the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge in amount of 12.8 million dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the community requests the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge be reinstated and maintained on the State of Alaska STIP and Federal STIP until completed.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 29th day of January, 2004
by a duly constituted quorum of the Councils of the City of Aleknagik and Aleknagik Traditional
Council, Board of Directors of Aleknagik Natives Limited, and their members who were invited
to a publicly announced "Joint Meeting" chaired by Aleknagik Traditional Council.

SIGNED: Bobby Andrew
Bobby Andrew, Aleknagik Natives Limited President

ATTEST: Nina Tinker
Nina Tinker, Secretary, Aleknagik Natives Limited

SIGNED: Gusty Chythlook
Gusty Chythlook, Aleknagik Traditional Council Chair

ATTEST: Kay Gorman
Kay Gorman, Secretary, Aleknagik Traditional Council

SIGNED: Berna Andrews
Berna Andrews, City of Aleknagik Mayor

ATTEST: Pauline Kohler
Pauline Kohler, City of Aleknagik City Clerk

12/27/05

To: Jeff Otteson, Director, State of Alaska DOT/PF

From: City of Aleknagik, Mayor, Berna Andrews

Attached is a letter sent to you today by mail that outlines the feelings of the City Council of Aleknagik in regards to the current STIP.

Please note that we would greatly appreciate full funding of the Wood River Bridge in the 06-08 Fiscal Years.

Thank you for your consideration.

3 pages

CITY OF ALEKNAGIK

P.O. BOX 33, MAIN STREET
ALEKNAGIK, ALASKA 99555-0033
PHONE: 907-842-5953 OR 2528
FAX: 907-842-2107
EMAIL: cityalek@nushtel.com

December 19, 2005

Jeff Otteson, Director
State of Alaska, DOT/PF
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Jeff,

At our regular City of Aleknagik Council Meeting on December 15th, we reviewed a letter outlining the STIP from the Commissioner of the DOT/PF in which he notes that public comment on the STIP is due by 12/31/05. The City Council of Aleknagik moved to write a letter in protest of the STIP that shows delay in construction of the Wood River Bridge.

We are noting that the Wood River Bridge shows no appropriations in the plan for the FY07 and 08, and only shows funding for after FY 09.

It is our understanding, (and we have a letter from Senator Lisa Murkowski to this effect) that there was an earmarked \$3 million dollar federal appropriation to go toward the Wood River bridge project this past fall. Why is it not included in the proposed outline of the project? We are under the assumption that these funds would be used toward settling of any right-of-way issues and could consume four or more years. Joint Municipal, Tribal, and Local Native Corporation (ANL) support has been in place for well over 10 years.

Attached is the most recent resolution signed by members of the Tribal, City and Corporate Boards of Aleknagik. Please note that we would like to request full funding for ROW, Design and Construction of the Wood River Bridge in FY 06-08.

Thank you,



Mayor Berna Andrew

Attachments: Copy of Joint Resolution 05-10

cc: Governor Murkowski, Senator Murkowski,
Senator Lyman Hoffman, Representative Carl Moses

CITY OF ALEKNAGIK

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12/19/05 03:06pm P. 003

JOINT RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION 05:10

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF ALEKNAGIK, ALEKNAGIK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALEKNAGIK NATIVES LIMITED REQUESTING SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR THE ALEKNAGIK WOOD RIVER BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, Aleknagik Natives Limited (ANL), Aleknagik Traditional Council (ATC), and the City of Aleknagik (City) executed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 29, 2000 to recognize areas of mutual concern and support, and to establish a framework for cooperative relations and communication for the benefit of the community of Aleknagik as a whole and it is the desire of the three entities to cooperate concerning legal and political matters inherent in a private corporation to government to government relationship; and,

WHEREAS, the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge remains the community of Aleknagik's top priority; and,

WHEREAS, the State DOT/PF provided \$1 million for design in the FY06-08 STIP; and,

WHEREAS, the President Bush signed a bill that provided \$3 million towards the ~~towards the~~ bridge last July; and,

WHEREAS, an estimated \$11 million more dollars are needed for construction; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the community of Aleknagik requests funding for the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge in amount of \$11 million dollars.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 21st day of November, 2005 by a duly constituted quorum of the Councils of the City of Aleknagik and Aleknagik Traditional Council, Board of Directors of Aleknagik Natives Limited, and their members who were invited to a publicly announced "Joint Meeting" chaired by Aleknagik Traditional Council.

SIGNED:


Bobby Andrew, Aleknagik Natives Limited President

ATTEST:


Nina Tinker, Secretary, Aleknagik Natives Limited

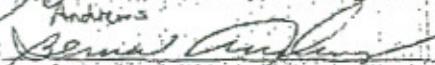
SIGNED:


Wassillie Ilutsik, Aleknagik Traditional Council Chair


ATTEST:


Kay Gorman, Secretary, Aleknagik Traditional Council

SIGNED:


Berna Andrews, City of Aleknagik Mayor

ATTEST:


Pauline Kohler, City of Aleknagik City Clerk